

LIFE IN QUARANTINE

As I was penning my ideas, my thoughts drifted towards Benjamin, the last thylacine of Hobart zoo in 1936. How did he feel, as an entire species was eradicated and he, in captivity was awaiting the embrace of death, alone and cold? Often my thoughts intertwine with the world leaders and I too want to put the blame on China, but my heart wanders towards the wet markets where animals are facing blood curdling quarantine and the only escape is death.

Before the pandemic, we never knew how to settle. We had aspirations, goals, jobs and a contained life. We had our lives planned till the eve we died. Yet in this fast-paced excitement, I never for once emphasized for anyone, except me or my immediate family. Before this, people dying in sub-Saharan countries and Arabian Peninsula was just news to be read over a cup of coffee. Or even the human right abuses, gender inequality, sexual harassment was just a work place interaction having no definite conclusion. We were immersed in eternal bliss of partying, enjoying and not caring what tomorrow brings!

Yet there came a tomorrow. It brought with it a deadly pathogen which contained the potential DNA to terminate mankind. We were hurled inside our homes fearing even our neighbors. I thought that just yesterday, I ate a cake on which my best friend blew the candles and today I don't want to even interact. I had lost my belief in every person and started to think even more about myself. The first few days of quarantine was my journey towards negativity and I immersed myself into thoughts that could have potentially turned me into self-centered animal.

Yet slowly I found new teachers in my life. They were the likes of Gandhi, Confucius, J M Coetzee. The one thing that I learnt from them was self-sufficiency. I installed my very own aquarium with my house mates. When I witnessed the adapting behaviour of my fishes and the sprouting of aquatic leaves, I felt like a child being born again. I started to care for them. Next, I learned to calm my nerves out and exercised. This reduced the rash personality of mine and increased the critical thinking and decision-making ability. Now the news about the death of single person anywhere stole my heart. I started experimenting the thought that if I would have been in that place what would be my decision. Caring actually started to be felt for those people whom I have never met. The evolution from a self-centered individual to a human being that god intended us to be had started.

Humans in their greed and ambition loose what is precious and I was one of them. Yet, in this moment of crisis, I emerged a stronger individual. I realized my duty towards my country and its folk. The quote "charity begins at home" is taught to every child yet at this age I understood its implication. Carbon footprint, exploitation needs to be eliminated and love, self-sufficiency and selfless service has been realized.

With this I pledge not to let any demon from within wreak havoc on mankind. Do your bit too readers.....